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Bug Heads

All of this happened to me was when I was between the age of Eight + Fifteen. The first place was the 'Fresh Air Farm'. It was a Summer camp for Poor Kids. We would walk up to North Ave + board the Busses. When we arrived at Camp the People that ran it would line us up + check our Heads for Lice or Bugs. The ones that had Lice were told to lay on a Picnic Table on our backs with our Heads over the End. On a short bench was a pan of Kerosene, They would bend our Heads back in the pans + ~~comb~~ comb the Kerosene through our Hair. When we were soaked good they would wrap a Diaper around our Heads + pin it. Then you would sit with all of the rest of the 'Bug Heads'. About a Hundred of us would go through this. Me + Junior were with the other ten or twelve. We had to stay together + eat at a special Table. None of the clean Head Kids wouldn't ever come near us Bug Heads. I didn't Dream up that name, that's what they ~~called~~ called us. We were all kept

together for about three days. All the time they would laugh at us with our White Turbans. When they finally took them off you could eat & play with the others. I don't remember if we got a Shower or not. I only remember 'Hey Bug Head'. I don't remember where the 'Fresh Air Farm' was. The next place was 'The Miracle House' on the Eastern Shore. There wasn't any Bay Bridges then, we went by Ferry Boat to St. Michaels. Now if you go to St. Michaels & go completely through the Town. & it looks like the end. Go straight through the Trees through a little Road. There's a little Street sign that says 'Miracle House Circle'. You will see a Big House straight ahead. That's where me & Junior spent most of a Summer around 1935 or 36. You guessed it - me & Junior had to wear the Diapers on our Heads. The same thing. 'Hey Bug Head'! On one of my other stories I told you Junior ran away & hid in the swamps. Maybe that's why he ran away because

when they hunted him down & brought him back he wasn't wearing the Diaper on his Head. Probaly threw it away. Junior was about Ten or Eleven & he didn't take any Crap off nobody. Lots of Kids had Head Lice in those days. The next place was 'Jolly Acres'. I'm pretty shore I whent there myself. I was put there before I whent to the Boarding House: 'Foster Home'. Pop thinks it was on the Eastern Shore because He & Helen went there at different times than me. But I know it was somewhere out Harford Rd. Me & Mary were driving & we came across 'Jolly Acres Rd'. Of course we drove down & we saw an of 'old' 'old' Lady sitting on a Poarch. I had to stop & talk to her. She told me she had lived there for over Fifty years. As we talked she told me ~~was~~ that years ago there was a summer camp for poor City Kids called 'Jolly Acres' It had to have ~~be~~ been the place It was about 1938. The same thing happened again. 'Hey Bug Head'

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Probably Me-Junior-Pep & Eddy
all sleep in the same Bed & I guess
thats why we always had Head Lice.
I had to wear the Diaper Hat again
You would think I would forget
it by now but you never forget
kids laughing & pointing 'Hey Bug Head'

Brother Martin
Jim Sz